

KNOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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February 17, 2009

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
306 Senate Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

Knox County is requesting an appropriation for the North Knox Economic Development Corridor. This 13-mile road project is located in northern Knox County. It would create a direct east-west connection between the important state highways of US 41 and SR 67 and the new Interstate 69. A Feasibility Study has been completed by Bernardin, Lochmueller and Associates with the input of the Knox County Development Corporation, Knox County Board of Commissioners, Knox County Council, INDOT Vincennes District and many others both in the local community and state-wide. A copy of the final edition of this study is enclosed for your information.

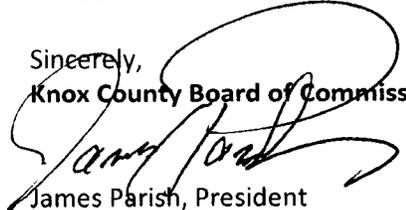
As you know, the coal industry plays a significant part in the economic livelihood of southwestern Indiana. Knox County finds itself in the midst of this industry. In 2007, 8 of the 10 most active coal mines were from either Knox or a neighboring county. In 2004, 7 of the 10 most active coal burning power plants were located within 70 miles of the North Knox Economic Development Corridor.

The coal industry in Knox County stands to take a major leap ahead with the construction of Duke Energy's \$2.5 billion coal fired gasification plant in northern Knox County along SR 67 in Edwardsport. This facility is anticipated to require almost 1.7 million tons of coal per year. Also, on US 41 near Oaktown, Vectren Fuels is in the process of building two new coal mines with a total coal mining potential of 5 million tons per year.

We believe that this east-west road is the future economic corridor for Knox County as well as providing benefits to Sullivan and Daviess Counties. It would help offset the increased safety concerns that come with a swell in coal truck traffic. Lastly, it will tie together a network of coal transportation corridors along with US 41, SR 67 and Interstate 69.

Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions or comments.

Sincerely,
Knox County Board of Commissioners



James Parish, President